



Security Council

Distr.: General
11 May 2006

Original: English

Letter dated 27 April 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on access for humanitarian operations in Darfur, issued on 7 April 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gerhard **Pfanzelter**
Permanent Representative of Austria
to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 27 April 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on access for humanitarian operations in Darfur issued on 7 April 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union notes with concern that in recent days representatives of the international community, and most recently the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Egeland, were not authorized by the Government of the Sudan to visit Darfur.

The humanitarian situation in Darfur requires sustained action by the international community. The Under-Secretary-General has a crucial role to play in that respect.

The European Union is committed to providing adequate support and funding for humanitarian activities. It recalls the need for humanitarian actors in the field to be given free access by all actors concerned.

The Government of the Sudan has a clear obligation to work with the United Nations and non-governmental organizations and we urge it to do so with all humanitarian agencies operating in Darfur.

The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Croatia,* the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the stabilization and association process.